

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 are currently pending. Claims 6-11 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 6-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as Claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,625,427 to Kayano et al. (hereinafter "the '427 patent"); Claims 1-5 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-6 of the '427 patent; and Claims 1-11 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the double patenting rejections.

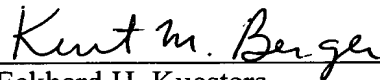
Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 are rendered moot by the present cancellation of those claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1-5 are rendered moot by the Terminal Disclaimer submitted herewith.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding grounds for rejection have been overcome and that Claims 1-5 are in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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